

Docket No.: 4444-061PATENT**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) Method ~~for~~ of authenticating a client for access to at least one virtual network which allows the client to access the services of at least one service provider, the or each virtual network being set up on a telecommunication network, ~~characterised in that the method comprising~~ comprises the steps of:
  - determining the compatibility (~~E300~~) of the client with a predetermined access control protocol for access to the virtual network,
  - if the client is not compatible with the predetermined access control protocol, authorising (~~E304~~) data transfer between the client and at least one subscription system for subscribing the client to at least one service provider via an authentication network which is different from the or each virtual network (~~162, 163~~) which allows a client to access the services of the or each service provider,
  - if the non-compatible client subscribes to at least one service provider via the authentication network, transferring (~~E306~~) to the non-compatible client an authentication for accessing the virtual network which allows access to the services of the service provider to which the non-compatible client is subscribed and information which makes it possible to make the client compatible with the predetermined access control protocol.

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2. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~wherein the authentication network is a virtual network or a network that is separate  
from the telecommunication network.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~wherein the subscription system includes ~~consists of~~ at least one subscription portal,  
an authentication material server and, ~~when in response to the client subscribing~~  
subscribes to a service, the subscription portal transfers to an authentication server data  
associated with the authentication transferred to the client.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~wherein the client is connected to the network via a Digital Subscriber Line Access  
Multiplexer and, if the client is compatible with the predetermined access control  
protocol, the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexor ~~performs (E308)~~ the steps of  
obtaining an identifier and a client authentication material and of obtaining a client  
authentication confirmation from the authentication server.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~wherein if the authentication server does not confirm the authentication of the client,  
the method comprises a step of authorising ~~(E304)~~ data transfer between the client and

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at least one subscription system for subscribing the client to at least one service provider via an authentication network which is different from the virtual networks which allow a client to access the services of at least one service provider.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein there is a transfer to the authentication service of information associated with the service provider to which the client is subscribed and/or information characterizing the service to which the client is subscribed, ~~is also transferred to the authentication server.~~

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the authentication server additionally transfers to the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexor the information associated with the service provider to which the client is a client and/or the information relating to the service or services to which the client is subscribed.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexor authorises data transfer between the virtual network which allows the client to access the services of the service provider to which the client is subscribed according to the communication speeds to which the client is subscribed.

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9. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein an address server is also associated with the virtual authentication network, and ~~in that~~ the address server allocates an address to the client for data transfer on the virtual authentication network

10. (Currently Amended ) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the telecommunication network is a high-speed network based on .Ethernet technology, and ~~in that~~ the predetermined access control protocol is a protocol of the IEEE 802.1x type, and ~~in that~~ the clients are connected to the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexor via connections of the DSL type.

11. (Currently Amended) System for authenticating a client for access to at least one virtual network ~~which~~ for allowing ~~allows~~ the client to access the services of at least one service provider, the or each virtual network being set up on a telecommunication network, ~~characterised in that~~ the system comprising ~~comprises~~;

- means for determining the compatibility of the client with a predetermined access control protocol for access to the telecommunication network,
- authorisation means for authorising, if the client is not compatible with the predetermined access control protocol, data transfer between the ~~non-compatible~~ non-compatible client and at least one subscription system

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- for subscribing the client to at least one service provider via a network which is different from the virtual networks which allow a client to access the services of a service provider,
- means for transferring to the ~~non-compatible~~ non-compatible client, if the ~~non-compatible~~ non-compatible client subscribes to at least one service provider via the authentication network, an authentication for accessing the virtual network which allows access to the services of the service provider to which the non-compatible client is subscribed and information which makes it possible to make the client compatible with the predetermined access control protocol.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium or storage device carrying a computer program stored on an information support, said program comprising including instructions for enabling a computer which make it possible to carry out the authentication method according to of Claim 1, when it is loaded and run by a computer system.

13. (Currently Amended) Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexor which allows at least one client to access the services of at least one service provider, characterised in that the client line multiplexer being arranged comprises means for relaying the information transmitted by the client and associated with authentication of the client to an authentication server.

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14. (Original) Multiplexer according to Claim 13, characterised in that the means wherein the client line multiplexer includes a software module according to the IEEE 802.1x standard for relaying the information associated with authentication, comprise a software module according to the IEEE 802.1x standard.